

Welcome to the April Edition of the BioSense Bulletin

This is the second bi-monthly edition of the BioSense Bulletin for 2007. Since our last update, we've been busy working on a number of improvements and enhancements to all aspects of the BioSense Program.

BioSense is a national program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the National Center for Public Health Informatics (NCPHI). It is intended to improve the nation's capabilities for disease detection, monitoring, and real-time health situational awareness, the ability to monitor disease over time and geography.

We are refining our priorities for 2007 and have updated and revamped our communications materials. Changes are being implemented to the BioSense webpage based on the results of usability testing. In addition, we have been preparing for a busy conference and meeting season.

BioBytes

New Application Release

BioSense continues to enhance its user functionality. Version 2.10 of the BioSense application is scheduled to be released June 2007. Planned enhancements to improve performance include:

- Display of Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense healthcare data along side the real-time hospital data in order to provide more complete "community" views
- Improved stratified and multiple time series functionality, including the addition of an option to display time series data by week
- Additions to the 'Patient Detail' screens, including microbiology laboratory data and enhancements to the emergency department clinical data
- Several Patient Map enhancements

New Webinar Series

BioSense has started a series of webinars with state and local public health and hospital partners to introduce the CDC BioIntelligence Center (BIC) staff to state and local public health users. These webinars are intended to build relationships, discuss communication protocols regarding anomalies of potential public health significance, and learn more about the training needs of BioSense users. We have heard new feedback about what our users find helpful in BioSense. The webinars also provide new or unfamiliar information to our users about application functionality. Feedback and questions from each session are documented and distributed to webinar participants. To date, three webinars were successfully hosted and we are currently scheduling additional sessions. We look forward to continued dialogue with our users as this series of webinars continues.

Extramural Projects Page

If you want to find out about the grants, cooperative agreements, and Centers of Excellence funded by CDC to support biosurveillance informatics, and particularly BioSense, check out the new BioSense Extramural Projects page on the BioSense webpage: www.cdc.gov/biosense/extramuralprojects.htm. You can find information about how these funds are being used to conduct research and evaluations that will further biosurveillance and the BioSense program. The page is updated regularly.



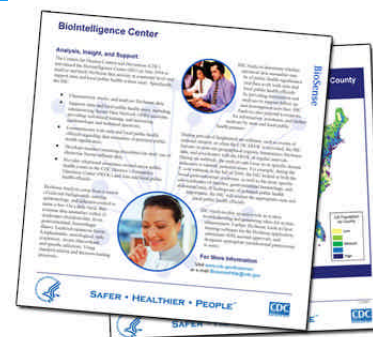
A screen shot of the new Extramural Page of the BioSense webpage.



BioBytes cont.

New Communication Materials

We recently updated our communication materials with the latest BioSense information. Multiple pieces were created including a brief Fact Sheet, FAQ's, overviews of the BioIntelligence Center, communication activities, extramural activities, and a highlight of some of the leading users of BioSense. These new materials incorporate more visuals to support the information and the text is shorter and easier to read. All of the new pieces are available on the BioSense webpage: <http://www.cdc.gov/biosense/communications.htm>



Overview of the BioIntelligence Center

Public Health Preparedness Summit

On February 22, 2007, BioSense hosted a breakout session at the Public Health Preparedness Summit in Washington, DC, entitled "Building BioSense, a National Biosurveillance System of Systems for Public Health Preparedness: Perspectives from the Local, State, and National Levels." This breakout session was facilitated by Dr. Jerry Tokars, Associate Director for Science, Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response, National Center for Public Health Informatics (NCPHI). Participants included Marc Paladini, Research Director, International Society for Disease Surveillance; Joe Lombardo, Director, Center for Excellence in Public Health Informatics, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory; and Steve Cline, Deputy State Health Director, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. The well-attended breakout session demonstrated how an integrated national system can improve biosurveillance capabilities at all levels of public health and improve overall public health preparedness and response capabilities.



Dr. Jerry Tokars facilitates the breakout session at the Public Health Preparedness Summit, February 22, 2007.



Steve Cline and Joe Lombardo at the Public Health Preparedness Summit.



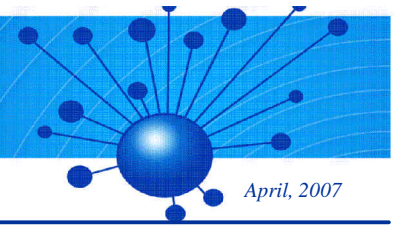
Marc Paladini presents at the Public Health Preparedness Summit.

Topical Workgroups

The Monitoring and Response Protocols and the Application Functionality topical workgroups will be meeting in May and June:

- May 23rd at 1:00pm EDT, the **Monitoring and Response Protocols** workgroup will be discussing the anomaly characterization criteria and process.
- June 28th at 12:00pm EDT, the **Application Functionality** workgroup will be given a status update regarding application development; discuss enhancements to be included in the June release; and discuss feedback received during the jurisdictional-specific user webinar sessions.

The call-in and web access information will be sent to workgroup members. If you would still like to join one of these workgroups, please email biosenseusers@cdc.gov.



BioSpotlight

The University Medical Center (UMC) Information Services Center in Clark County Nevada has earned a Public Health Heroes award from the Southern Nevada Health District. Recipients of this honor are nominated annually by health district staff members for their work in supporting one or more of the 10 Essential Public Health Services. UMC, an early BioSense participant, was recognized for its work in the development of several health district systems and is noted as the first hospital in Clark County, Nevada to provide specific data that allows the health district's disease investigators to obtain near real-time information that provides a greater capacity to identify and track outbreaks in the community. They also were recognized for being pioneers in providing data to the health district on patterns of antibiotic resistance in Southern Nevada. BioSense congratulates UMC for its great work and dedication to public health.

For more information on the Public Health Heroes award, please go to the press release at:

http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/press_releases/2007/033007a.html.

BREAKING NEWS

Split Feed Connections

BioSense is proud to announce the establishment of two split feeds from health systems directly to public health. The Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health and the El Paso City-County Health & Environmental District now receive the same data the health systems in their respective jurisdictions are transmitting to CDC in real-time. Congratulations!

BioSolutions

BioSense identifies an anomaly; now what information do you need to evaluate it?

The Division of Knowledge Management Services (DKMS) within NCPHI is currently developing decision support services that will assist users in evaluating statistical anomalies noted in BioSense data.. Decision support methods will be used to deliver the most relevant information from the most useful resources to users at the most appropriate point within the BioSense application. These decision support services are modeled after those that have been used in healthcare in Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems that have been used to deliver patient-specific recommendations to clinicians at the point of care. Knowledge-based decision support will derive related information from knowledge stores, such as the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), the United States Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases' (USAMRIID) Blue Book, news services, and other information on the Web to deliver context-relevant information to BioSense users. These decision support services are aimed at enhancing both the efficacy and consistency of decision-making.

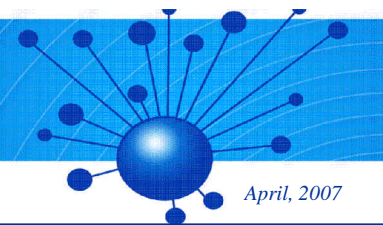
BIOSTATS

Currently, there are 366 hospitals sending data to BioSense.

CONTACT US

Please use this [email](#) to contact us if you have any comments or questions regarding the BioSense Bulletin.





BioSchedule

- **Real-Time, Real Talk Quarterly Update Call**
Thursday, May 3, 2007 – 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm EDT
Call-in Number: 800-857-7001; Passcode: BioSense
- **BioSense Training and Orientation Sessions**
 - **Monday, April 30, 2007 – 1:00 pm-2:30 pm EDT**
URL to join session:
<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/cdc/join?id=5BH5BC&role=attend&pw=r6%3C%27z%2B%7E%5CN>
Audio Conferencing (Toll-free): +1 (866) 756-5589
Participant Code: 2229244
 - **Monday, May 14, 2007 – 1:00 pm-2:30 pm EDT**
URL to join session:
<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/cdc/join?id=WGJST7&role=attend&pw=r6%3C%27z%2B%7E%5CN>
Audio Conferencing (Toll-free): +1 (866) 756-5589
Participant Code: 2229244
 - **Tuesday, May 29, 2007 – 1:00 pm-2:30 pm EDT**
URL to join session:
<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/cdc/join?id=3KH5DZP&role=attend&pw=r6%3C%27z%2B%7E%5CN>
Audio Conferencing (Toll-free): +1 (866) 756-5589
Participant Code: 2229244
- **Upcoming Conferences and Submission Deadlines**
 - **National Alliance for Health Information Technology**
Washington, DC - May 15, 2007
(<http://www.nahit.org>)
 - **NSF BioSurveillance Workshop**
New Brunswick, NJ - May 22, 2007
(<http://ai.arizona.edu/BIO2007>)
Michelle Podgornik, MPH, Epidemiologist, Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response will make a presentation entitled “The Influenza Data Summary: A Prototype Application for Visualizing National Influenza Activity” on May 22nd during Session 5 at 4:20 pm EDT.
 - **American Medical Informatics Association**
Orlando, FL - May 22-24, 2007
(<http://www.amia.org>)
Peter Hicks, MA, MPH, Public Health Informatics Fellow, Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response will have a poster presentation entitled “Automated Processing of Internet News Reports to Improve Public Health Situational Awareness” on Tuesday, May 22nd at 3:30 pm. EDT.



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If you do not wish to receive this email, please [click here](#) and you will be unsubscribed from the list.

